

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the American University in Bulgaria, we cordially invite you to our 5th Erasmus Staff Training Week from 24th to 28th of April 2017. AUBG places great emphasis on cross-cultural perspectives and internationalization, a commitment seen in our highly diverse student body, international faculty and staff, and international and intercultural academic and co-curricular programs. We are also proud to have close to 60 Erasmus+ Bilateral agreements with institutions from more than 24 countries. We believe that successful cooperation is based on personal encounters and meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences. We hope that the comprehensive program of the AUBG Erasmus Staff Training Week will give us the opportunity to gain new knowledge regarding Erasmus exchanges, new skills and strategies for best practices, and will help us strengthen our existing partnerships, while presenting opportunities for future cooperation.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our country, our city and university for a mutual exchange of ideas and opportunities for continued cooperation!

### **Why choose American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) for your Erasmus staff/teaching training?**

- A private American style university teaching all courses in English;
- Accredited in the USA and Bulgaria. Academic credits are recognized in Europe and USA;
- Liberal arts curriculum based on choice and practical knowledge;
- An excellent international faculty;
- A highly talented multicultural student body from 40 countries that makes a difference;
- Diverse experience to develop knowledge, skills, and values;
- The most modern University complex in Bulgaria;
- Our new America for Bulgaria Student Center won first place in the Education and Sport category at the prestigious "Building of the Year" 2013 contest;
- Attractive location just 100 km from our capital Sofia in a beautiful town of Blagoevgrad

### **Who can attend?**

The Erasmus Staff Training Week is open to all staff (administrative and technical) and faculty of our current partner universities or potential new partners.

### **Costs**

We do not charge any participation fee. Other costs such as accommodation, meals and travel are covered by the participants themselves. Participation in this week is an eligible activity under the following Erasmus funds: staff mobility for training, staff mobility for teaching, Organizational Support – funding for preparatory visits or monitoring visits. If some of you are not able to attend to the meeting due to time constraints or schedule conflicts, you can send another representative from your University.

### **How to apply?**

Please fill in the attached Registration form and send it back by e-mail to: Erasmus@aubg.edu no later than 30th of March 2017.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Erasmus Staff Training Week PROGRAM

<u>Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017</u>	<u>Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017</u>	<u>Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017</u>	<u>Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017</u>	<u>Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017</u>
<p><b>10.00-10.15-Registration</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>10.15-10.30-Welcome address by the President's Office</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>10.30-11.15-Warm-up workshop</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>11.15-11.45- Presentation about Erasmus+ program at AUBG</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>11.45-13.00-European Gastronomy Fair of traditional food and drinks presented by the participants</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>13.00-13.30 Green Initiative</b></p> <p><b>13.30-15.30-Guided Tour of AUBG Skaptopara Campus and Main Building</b></p> <p><b>16.30-18.30 Guided tour of Blagoevgrad</b></p>	<p><b>10.00-10.30- Presentation about AUBG - AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</b></p> <p><b>10.30-12.00- Erasmus Fair</b> during which each participant will have the chance to present his/her home University to the others and provide some information materials. The event is expected to serve as a basis for further bilateral agreements between the participating institutions AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>12.00-13.00- Lunch</b> ( at your own expenses )</p> <p><b>13.00-14.00 Interactive workshop – e-learn platform</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>14.00-16.00- Bulgarian culture and language workshop</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>18.00-19.30- Interactive workshop-traditional Bulgarian cuisine</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>19.30-21.00- Cultural program-</b> Unique chance to enjoy the traditional Bulgarian songs and dances of AUBG Female Folklore Ensemble “ Svetlina” and the the Folklore Ensemble “Biser” and see AUBG art exhibition AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p>	<p><b>10.00 – 18.00 Trip to Gorno Draglishte</b>, where participants can feel the unique atmosphere of the countryside and try traditional Bulgarian food preparing it by themselves. On their way back the participants will visit the church “ St. St. Theodor Tiron and Theodor Stratilat “ in Dobarsko. It was built in 1614 by rich and well-educated people. Its authentic architecture and unique murals and icons make it one of the most memorable pieces of Bulgarian art. Price approximately 20 Euros per person.</p>	<p><b>10.00-12.00- Round table discussion Erasmus+ Credit Mobility –sharing best practices and tips</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>12.00-13.00- Lunch</b> ( at your own expenses )</p> <p><b>13.00-14.00- Presentation of a representative of the Bulgarian National Agency</b> (Human Resource Development Center) <b>about Erasmus + programme</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>14.00-16.00- Interactive workshop Exploring Leadership: Yourself, Your organization, Your community"</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>16.00-17.00- Round table discussion – Erasmus+ projects and strategic partnerships</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>19.30 – 21.30- Exchange evening and performance of AUBG Folklore Ensemble “Samodiva” and AUBG female</b> – Students will share their impressions from a foreign country they have visited while they were on exchange AUBG Campus, Balkanski Academic Center, Library – first floor;</p>	<p><b>9.00-10.30 World café: Erasmus+ best practices and new opportunities for universities</b> AUBG Campus, Room 6306, ABF</p> <p><b>10.30-15.30 Trip to Rila Monastery (optional)</b> - price approximately <b>20 Euros</b> per participant <b>The Rila Monastery</b> was founded in the 10th century by St John of Rila, a hermit canonized by the Orthodox Church. His ascetic dwelling and tomb became a holy site and were transformed into a monastic complex which played an important role in the spiritual and social life of medieval Bulgaria. Destroyed by fire at the beginning of the 19th century, the complex was rebuilt between 1834 and 1862. A characteristic example of the Bulgarian Renaissance (18th–19th centuries), the monument symbolizes the awareness of a Slavic cultural identity following centuries of occupation.</p>